

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of the claims is provided below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly according to claim 29, wherein said cover comprises a circular side wall and two opposed ends.
3. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly of claim 2, wherein said cover is a hollow cylinder having a constant diameter.
4. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly according to claim 29, wherein said cover is six-inch welded stainless steel pipe.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) The drive assembly according to claim ~~29~~ 2, wherein said first support includes a first flange having a diameter greater than ~~said~~ the diameter of the cover and a shoulder having a diameter less than the diameter of said cover.
7. (Currently Amended) The drive assembly of claim ~~5~~ 2, wherein said second support includes a second flange having a diameter less than the diameter of said cover.

8. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly of claim 6, wherein said second support includes a second flange having a diameter less than the diameter of said cover.

9. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly of claim 6, wherein said first flange is made from stainless steel.

10. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly of claim 6, further comprising a first sealing element disposed between said shoulder and said cover that seals said cover to said drive system component.

11. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly of claim 7, further comprising a second sealing element disposed between said flange and said cover that seals said cover to said drive system component.

12. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly of claim 10, further comprising a second sealing element disposed between said flange and said cover that seals said cover to said drive system component.

13. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly of claim 12, wherein said first and said second sealing elements are O-rings.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly according to claim 31, wherein said first and said second sealing elements are O-rings.

17. (Currently Amended) The drive assembly according to claim 31, wherein said cover comprises a circular side wall and two opposed ends.

18. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly of claim 17, wherein said cover is a hollow cylinder having a constant diameter.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Cancelled).

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Currently Amended) A drive assembly for a mixer having a motor assembly and a seal pedestal, comprising:

a stationary cover that extends between at least a portion of the motor assembly and at least a portion of the seal pedestal, wherein said cover is stationary during operation if the mixer;

a speed reducer disposed within said cover;

a first support that supports said cover on the motor assembly; and

a second support that supports said cover on the seal pedestal.

30. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly according to claim 29, wherein said speed reducer is a concentric speed reducer.

31. (Currently Amended) A drive assembly for a mixer having a motor assembly and a seal pedestal, comprising:

a stationary cover that extends between at least a portion of the motor assembly and at least a portion of the seal pedestal, wherein said cover is stationary during operation if the mixer;
a speed reducer disposed within said cover;
a first seal element that seals said cover to the motor assembly; and
a second seal element that seals said cover to the seal pedestal.

32. (Currently Amended) The drive assembly according to claim ~~29~~ 31, wherein said speed reducer is a concentric speed reducer.

33. (Currently Amended) A drive assembly for a mixer having a motor assembly and a seal pedestal, comprising:

means for covering the drive assembly, wherein said means for covering the drive assembly extends between at least a portion of the motor assembly and at least a portion of the seal pedestal, and wherein said means for covering is stationary during operation of the mixer;

means for reducing speed disposed in said means for covering;
first means for supporting the covering means on the drive assembly; and
second means for supporting the covering means on the seal pedestal.